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RETAIL

Retail Growing in San Bernardino County

SAN BERNARDINO - San Bernardino County is not just the nation's largest county in terms of size but also ranks as the fifth fastest growing county in the country, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.

Continued increases in jobs and housing underscore the need for more development and investment, specifically in retail and other services, according to Brian McGowan, San Bernardino County's Economic Development Agency administrator.

"For retailers looking to grow in Southern California, we have a compelling story to tell in terms of population, income and opportunity," said Bill Postmus, chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. "In just one year, we added 50,000 new residents and the region is continuing to grow. Projections show that our population will increase another 24 percent by 2010."

San Bernardino is the 11th most populous county in the nation with 2 million residents and 50 percent of all jobs created in California in 2005 were in the Inland Empire.

The Riverside-San Bernardino MSA ranked 10th in **Marcus & Millichap's** National Retail Index, which identifies the top retail real estate markets in the United States.

According to Marcus & Millichap's report, continued economic expansion and population growth will strengthen the Inland Empire retail market. Despite increased development activity, tenant demand is high and space is quickly filling. National retailers are making major expansions throughout the region.

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